

Present perfect

Think about this situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have	(= I've etc.)	finished lost
he/she/it	has	(= he's etc.)	done been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost/done/written etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Ow! I've cut my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- ☐ (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- ☐ 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to send the letter.' 'I've **already sent** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already gone**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has it stopped** raining yet?
- ☐ I've written the letter, but I **haven't sent** it yet.

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ Jim is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)